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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 BAGHDAD 003889

SIPDIS

STATE FOR INR/R/MR, NEA/PPD, NEA/PPA, NEA/AGS, INR/IZ, INR/P

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: DAILY IRAQI WEBSITE MONITORING - September 20, 2005

SUMMARY: Discussion on the Corruption and Terrorism were the major editorial themes of Iraqi, Arabic language websites on September 20, 2005. END SUMMARY.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS  
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- [1A.](#) "Timing of the Scandal" (Iraq 4 all news, 9/20)
- [1B.](#) "Zarqawi's Plague or Tal Afar's Plague?" (Kitabat, 9/20)
- [1C.](#) "This Is Why Al-Mutlag and Al-Dhari Reject the New Constitution" (Nahrain, 9/20)
- [1D.](#) "Responsibility" (Al-Soat Al-Iraq, 9/20)

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SELECTED COMMENTARIES

[1A.](#) "Timing of the Scandal"  
(Editorial by Fatih Abdul Salam -Iraq 4 all news -  
<http://iraq4all.org/viewnews.php?id=9944> - Based in Denmark,  
not affiliated with any political party)

"A minister talks about a \$2 billion embezzlement and the National Assembly talks about similar thefts to such an extent that it seems as if Iraqis are drowning in an ocean of organized looting. These incriminating facts may reveal information about the lack of security, electricity, and services in the country, as well as where hundreds of millions of dollars could have gone in a war-devastated country like ours. These numbers do not appear to be final, nor do they give the full picture because other types of theft and embezzlement are committed in the name of the people, claiming to serve the public interest.

"What has surfaced of late does not necessarily represent a major scandal for Iraqis because most of them already knew that their country was being robbed in an organized manner. The competition for official posts was for the glory of millions of dollars, not to serve the people who have long awaited a savior.

"The oil for food scandal was investigated by the U.N. for two years and resulted in nothing more than a mild reproach directed at the Secretary General. Given this precedent, who will investigate this Iraqi scandal, and why was it brought up at this time despite being well-known long before - especially in a country that does not need scandal to settle political records?

"Whenever conditions deteriorate in this country you should search for a scandal to explain it.

"Iraqis who have suffered already are not willing to wait for twenty or thirty years to be faced with corruption; no one can force them to be patient. If you wish to understand the nature of the scandal you need to uncover the reasons behind its announcement."

[1B.](#) "Zarqawi's Plague or Tal Afar's Plague?"  
(Editorial by Jassim Al-Biyati - Kitabat - "Writings" -  
<http://www.kitabat.com/i8356.htm> - Independent Iraqi site)

"Since the fall of Baghdad, Iraq's Sunni cities have witnessed a significant jump in mass casualty operations. We can name it, "The Katrina Lab of Iraq for Testing America's Weapons."

"The workers in this lab, which stretches from Tal Afar to eastern Iraq, received permission to use any light and heavy weapons from their leaders in the Defense Department and the White House to treat their people for the terrorism disease, with which they were afflicted after 9/11.

"Despite the grave disease in the Sunni areas it has not affect the Kurdish region in northern Iraq nor the Shiite region in southern Iraq, although they are two parts that cannot be separated from the country. It does not take a philosopher like Descartes to figure out the solution, it is quite simple: the northern and southern cities have diplomatic immunity and official passports with British or American visas to prevent them from catching the disease.

"The poor Sunni cities, including Tal Afar, haven't gotten

that immunity for two reasons: Tal Afar belongs to Iraq and it is an authentic Turkmen city. That is why it became easy prey for this disease and its lethal germ. Physicians are unable to diagnose this disease because they haven't differentiated between Zarqawi and Tal Afar's plague."

1C. "This Is Why Al-Mutlag and Al-Dhari Reject the New Constitution"  
(Editorial by Ali Al-Badran - Al-Nahrain -  
[http://www.nahrain.com/d/news/05/09/20/nhr092\\_0p.html](http://www.nahrain.com/d/news/05/09/20/nhr092_0p.html))

"Spectators of the Iraqi political scene will see that political interests are behind all the destruction and killing even though these interests are disguised behind false claims of resisting occupation and defending Sunni rights. We have heard these pretexts from those who hinder the political process and those who cause this destruction in Iraq.

"While there was not Sunni political or military opposition directed at the former regime (aside from an attempted coup by Major General Mohammed Madhlum Al-Dulaimi, who was later executed) the Shiites and Kurds were known for their long history of opposition to the dictatorship. Sunnis do not have well-known figures or parties to occupy the void created after the fall of the former regime; some took advantage of this opportunity, attempting to play a large role. Two blocs emerged, both claiming to represent the Sunnis.

"The first is the Muslim Scholars Association which adopts radical infidel-like concepts; the other consists of the nationalists and Ba'athists linked to the former regime, which adopted the same method of killing and destruction to achieve its political aims. Both of these blocs carried slogans of defending Sunnis and resisting occupation. Both blocs sought to facilitate terrorist operations that target innocent people to give the impression they were honest, untouchable resistance fighters.

"To rid us of this dilemma the government should establish a safe environment for moderate people and provide them with a real chance to represent the Sunni community. This will not be achieved unless we eliminate the threats from militants, infidels, bearded men and those masked as clerics who give legitimacy to criminal acts and encourage sectarian discord whenever they get the chance."

1D. "Responsibility"  
(Editorial by Mohammed Abdul Jabar Shabout - Al-Soat Al-Iraq - "The Voice of Iraq" - <http://www.sotaliraq.com/articles-iraq/nieuws.php?id=15732>)

"Our government is not comprised of a winning party as would be the case in the British government where the party that wins a majority of parliamentary seats forms its government and the others become opposition parties awaiting the next election. Our government is a coalition consisting of elected blocs. The Alliance and Kurdish lists both consist of a number of parties in addition to independent figures representing a spectrum of Iraqi society. This is a good system given the ethnic, ideological and political pluralism in Iraq. But public opinion polls show a majority of citizens are not satisfied with the government, even though it enjoys electoral legitimacy, since it can not demonstrate competency.

"It is known that a government which is incompetent will fail in future elections. Some allied parties in the government are not satisfied with the government's conduct. Many memos were presented to the Prime Minister who never responded to them. One of the memos was written by the Minister of Water Resources, Dr. Abdul Lateef Raheed whose ministry does not even have a chance of being listed within the ministerial cabinet agenda. A political party leader told me he blamed the Prime Minister for the government's failure. Another political figure who assumed a prominent post in the government intends to participate in elections on a separate list. Dr. Laith Kubba, the Prime Minister's spokesperson, criticized the government publicly in a symposium held in London.

"This situation presents difficult choices for political and party figures. Either they continue to be silent, share responsibility for the government's general failure, and consequently be included as part of the failure, or they evade responsibility for the government's failure. Some believe that this kind of announcement is more costly than silence because an announcement might lead to the fall of the government-particularly its head. The country would then descend into a political crisis from which it would be difficult to emerge.

"Silence will result in decreasing popularity for these parties. Some are preparing to discuss the situation frankly and avoid blaming themselves for others' failures, hoping to

maintain their popularity and get lucky in the upcoming elections."  
SATTERFIELD